

This report, dealing with 110 samples may be summarized as follows:—

Caramels containing no paraffin.	30 samples.
" " traces only.	8 "
" " less than 0.5 per cent.	8 "
" " more than 0.5 per cent but less than 1.0 per cent.	13 "
" " more than 1 per cent.	51 "
Total.	110

Of 51 samples which contain above 1 per cent by weight of paraffin, the subjoined table gives particulars:—

From 1 to 2 per cent paraffin.	23 samples.
" 2 " 3 " "	12 "
" 3 " 4 " "	10 "
" 4 " 5 " "	5 "
" 5 " 6 " "	0 "
" 6 " 7 " "	1 "
Total.	51

We have no direct legislation against the use of paraffin in candy. Whether or not the amounts above indicated can be regarded as harmful to health is a matter for very careful consideration, and will be duly investigated.

Since writing the above I have received the following expression of opinion from Dr. A. D. Blackader, Professor of Pharmacology at McGill College, Montreal, and Medical Adviser to this Department.

"It is a subject to which my attention had never been previously drawn, and I have taken time to consult my confrères and made enquiries from all whom I thought might give me an opinion. The answer I received from most of my confrères was to the effect that in amount so small as 1 per cent it was not likely to do any harm, one might even say 2 per cent, but that in larger amounts there was a possible risk in persons or children who consumed large amounts of candy.

In his very recent volume on Pharmacology (1916) Sillman states that pure paraffin is harmless, ill-refined paraffin may give rise to toxic symptoms. Any impurity in the paraffin used for caramels may do harm in several ways. Care therefore must be taken that only pure paraffin is employed. If the paraffin is pure, and in amount does not exceed 1 per cent I do not think its employment can do harm. The objections to it is that it is of no use as a food, and in candy may be regarded as an adulteration."

In the meantime I would respectfully advise publication of this report as Bulletin No. 365.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

A. MCGILL,
Chief Analyst.